

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A telecommunications cabinet comprising:

a top, a floor, a pair of opposing sides, a front wall and a rear wall defining an interior, the front including an access door for accessing the interior;

a cable management structure;

at least one adapter panel including a plurality of openings for mounting fiber optic adapters;

at least one adapter mounted within one of the openings in one of the at least one adapter panel, the adapter configured to optically connect ~~optical connector~~ two optical fiber cables terminated with fiber optic connectors, one cable on a rear side of the adapter and one cable on a front side of the adapter;

at least one fiber optic connector holder mounted within one of the openings of the at least one adapter panel, the connector holder including a front side ~~an~~ opening configured to receive one of the a fiber optic connectors ~~connector with a dust cap~~, the fiber optic connector having a ferrule with a dust cap mounted directly about the ferrule, the front side opening of the fiber optic connector holder accessible from a front side of the adapter panel.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The telecommunications cabinet of claim 1, further comprising a fiber optic connector including the a ferrule with a polished end face holding an end of an optical fiber with the a dust cap placed about the ferrule and the polished end face inserted within the front side opening of a fiber optic connector holder.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A telecommunications connection rack comprising:

a rack mounting structure;

a cable management structure;

a fanout panel mounted to the rack mounting structure;

an adapter panel mounted to the rack mounting structure, the adapter panel including a plurality of adapter openings sized to receive and mount fiber optic adapters for optically connecting optical fibers within fiber optic cables terminated with fiber optic connectors, and a plurality of optical fiber adapters mounted within the openings;

a cable connector holder panel mounted to the rack mounting structure, the cable connector holder panel including a plurality of openings sized similarly to the openings in the adapter panel and a plurality of fiber optic connector holders mounted within the openings, each of the fiber optic connector holders configured to receive a fiber optic connector with a dust cap in place directly about an polished end face of a ferrule of the connector, the ferrule holding the end of an optical fiber;

the cable management structure configured to direct a fiber optic cable from the fanout panel to each of the adapter panel and the cable connector holder panel and to store excess cable length.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A telecommunications cable organizer comprising:

a first panel including an array of connector holders on the panel for selectively receiving a first plurality of connectors including dust caps fitted about ferrules of the connectors in on one end of the connector holders, so the first plurality of connectors are optically isolated, the opposite end of the connector holders configured to not be matable with any of the connectors;

a second panel including an array of adapters on the panel for selectively receiving the first plurality of connectors with the dust caps removed in not including dust caps on one end of the adapters, the opposite ends of the adapters configured to be matable with a second plurality of connectors without dust caps to optically connect connectors of the first plurality with connectors of the second plurality.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of connecting telecommunications service cables comprising:

providing ~~[[a]]~~ an equipment mounting rack with a fanout module, an adapter module, a connector holder module and a cable management structure mounted to the rack;

directing a multi-strand optical fiber service cable to the fanout module;

separating the multiple strands of fiber in the service cable into individual fiber patch cords extending from the fanout module, with a distal end of each patch cord terminated with a fiber optic connector, the fiber optic connector including a dust cap positioned about a polished end face;

extending a first patch cord from the fanout module into the cable management structure so that the connector of the first patch cord is proximate a fiber optic connector holder mounted within an opening in a front of the connector holder module;

inserting the fiber optic connector of the first patch cord into the fiber optic connector holder without removing the dust cap;

withdrawing the connector of the first patch cord from the connector holder;

removing the dust cap from the polished end face;

adjusting the first patch cord within the cable management structure so that the connector is proximate a adjacent ~~an~~ fiber optic adapter mounted within an opening in a front of the adapter module;

inserting the connector of the first patch cord into the adapter so that the optical fiber of the patch cord is optically connected to a second connector inserted within an opposite end of the adapter.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 5, wherein the opening in the front of the connector holder module is sized to permit mounting of the adapter upon removal of the connector holder.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 6, wherein the method further comprises removal of the connector holder from the opening in the connector holder panel and mounting an adapter such as mounted in the adapter module in the opening in the holder connector module.
8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 5, wherein a plurality of adapters are mounted to the adapter module, a plurality of connector holders are mounted to the connector holder module, and a plurality of patch cords extend from the fanout module.
9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises directing the connector of each of the patch cords from the fanout module to the cable management structure and to one of the adapter module and the connector holder module, and inserting any connectors directed to the connector holder module within a connector holder without removing the dust cap.
10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 5, wherein the adapter module includes a splitter which combines optical signals from patch cords inserted within one or more of the plurality of adapters into a single optical fiber.
11. (ORIGINAL) A method of connecting telecommunications cables comprising:
  - providing a first panel including an array of connector holders on the panel for selectively receiving a first plurality of connectors and a second panel including an array of adapters on the panel for selectively receiving the first plurality of connectors, the first plurality of connectors each having a dust cap about a first end;
  - inserting the first end of each of the first plurality of connectors into the connector holders of the first panel;
  - withdrawing a selected one of the first plurality of the connectors from the connector holder;
  - removing the dust cap from the first end of the selected connector;

inserting the first end of the selected connector into one of the adapters of the second panel so that the selected connector is optically connected to a second connector inserted in an opposite end of the adapter.

12. (NEW) A telecommunications cabinet comprising:

a top, a floor, a pair of opposing sides, a front wall and a rear wall defining an interior, the front including an access door for accessing the interior;

a cable management structure;

at least one adapter panel including a plurality of openings for mounting fiber optic adapters;

at least one adapter mounted within one of the openings in one of the at least one adapter panel, the adapter configured to optically connect two optical fiber cables terminated with fiber optic connectors, one cable on a rear side of the adapter and one cable on a front side of the adapter;

at least one fiber optic connector holder panel including a plurality of openings for mounting fiber optic connector holders;

at least one fiber optic connector holder mounted within one of the openings of the at least one connector holder panel, the connector holder including an opening configured to receive a fiber optic connector, inserted longitudinally relative to a connector axis.

13. (NEW) The telecommunications panel of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of the adapters mounted to the adapter panel, a plurality of connector holders mounted to the connector holder panel, and a plurality of fiber optic cables connected to the rear side of each adapter, a rear side of each connector holder opposite the opening configured to be unable to connect to a fiber optic cable.

14. (NEW) A telecommunications connection rack comprising:

a rack mounting structure;

a cable management structure;

a distribution panel mounted to the rack mounting structure;

an adapter panel mounted to the rack mounting structure, the adapter panel including a plurality of adapter openings sized to receive and mount fiber optic adapters for optically connecting optical fibers within fiber optic cables terminated with fiber optic connectors, and a plurality of optical fiber adapters mounted within the openings;

a cable connector holder panel mounted to the rack mounting structure, the cable connector panel including a plurality of openings and a plurality of fiber optic connector holders mounted within the openings, each of the fiber optic connector holders configured to receive a fiber optic connector;

the cable management structure configured to direct a fiber optic cable from the distribution panel to each of the adapter panel and the cable connector holder panel and to store excess cable length.

15. (NEW) A telecommunications cable organizer comprising:

a first panel including an array of connector holders on the panel for selectively receiving a first plurality of connectors in one end of the connector holders, the opposite end of the connector holders configured to not be matable with any of the connectors;

a second panel including an array of adapters on the panel for selectively receiving the first plurality of connectors in one end of the adapters, the opposite ends of the adapters configured to be matable with a second plurality of connectors.

16. (NEW) A method of connecting telecommunications service cables comprising:

providing an equipment mounting rack with a distribution module, an adapter module, a connector holder module and a cable management structure mounted to the rack;

directing an optical fiber service cable to the distribution module;

distributing the service cable into individual fiber patch cords extending from the distribution module, with a distal end of each patch cord terminated with a fiber optic connector;

extending a first patch cord from the distribution module into the cable management structure so that the connector of the first patch cord is proximate a fiber optic connector holder mounted within an opening in a front of the connector holder module;

inserting an end of the fiber optic connector of the first patch cord into the fiber optic connector holder for storage;

withdrawing the connector of the first patch cord from the connector holder;

adjusting the first patch cord within the cable management structure so that the connector is proximate a fiber optic adapter mounted within an opening in a front of the adapter module;

inserting the end of the connector of the first patch cord into the adapter so that the optical fiber of the patch cord is optically connected to a second connector inserted within an opposite end of the adapter.

17. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein the method further comprises removal of the connector holder from the opening in the connector holder panel and mounting an adapter such as mounted in the adapter module in the opening in the holder connector module.

18. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein a plurality of adapters are mounted to the adapter module, a plurality of connector holders are mounted to the connector holder module, and a plurality of patch cords extend from the distribution module.

19. (NEW) A method of connecting telecommunications cables comprising:

providing a first panel including a plurality of connector holders for selectively receiving a first plurality of connectors individually inserted into first ends of the connector holders in a direction of the longitudinal axis of each connector, and a second panel including a plurality of adapters for selectively receiving the first plurality of connectors individually inserted into first ends of the adapters in a direction of the longitudinal axis of each connector,

wherein opposite ends of each connector holder are not connected to fiber optic cables, and  
wherein opposite ends of each adapter are connected to fiber optic cables;

          withdrawing a selected one of the first plurality of the connectors from one of the  
connector holders;

          inserting a first end of the selected connector into a selected one of the adapters so  
that the selected connector is optically connected to a second connector inserted in the opposite  
end of the selected adapter.